ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES





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 Date Issued: July 28, 2013
 Time: 10:30 a.m.

UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 30

EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-31-13

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 30 opens drift gillnetting in Drift Gillnet Area 1 of the Central District and in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Monday, July 29, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The optimal escapement goal (OEG) for Kasilof River sockeye salmon is 160,000–390,000 fish. More than 457,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have passed the Kasilof sonar through July 27. The Kenai River inriver (sonar) goal is 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 sockeye salmon. More than 1,172,000 sockeye salmon are estimated to have passed the Kenai River sonar through July 27.

According to 5AAC 21.353 Central District Drift Gillnet Fishery Management Plan, from July 16 through July 31, one regular 12-hour fishing period per week will be restricted to either Drift Gillnet Area 1 or the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections of the Upper Subdistrict, but not both together. Because of the closure of the set gillnet fishery in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict, and considering the cumulative passage of sockeye salmon into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, commercial fishing with drift gillnets in the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof Sections is warranted in order to harvest additional sockeye salmon migrating to these watersheds.

Drifters are reminded that, because set gillnetting is closed in the Upper Subdistrict, drifting within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River is closed until further notice.